WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A user-data relating apparatus for causing user data
to be related to a predetermined position of continuous data,
5   the user data being added by a user in relation to a material
employed while the continuous data is recorded, the apparatus
comprising:

an input unit for inputting the user data added by the
user with respect to a material which has been distributed to
10   the user in relation to the material actually used in the
continuous data; and

a relating unit for causing the user data to be related
to a position contained in the continuous data in which the
material was employed based upon a corresponding relationship
15   between the material to which the user data has been added and
the material employed while the continuous data is recorded.

2.   A user-data relating apparatus according to claim
1, further comprising:
20   an analyzing unit for specifying both the material employed
while the continuous data is recorded and the position contained
in the continuous data in which the material was employed.

3.   A user-data relating apparatus according to claim
25   1, wherein:

the user data is an item which was annotated in a printed material by the user; the input unit is an image reading apparatus for reading the printed material;

the user-data relating apparatus includes an extracting unit for extracting the user data from the read material image data; and

the relating unit for causing the user data to be related to the position contained in the continuous data in which the material was employed based upon a corresponding relationship between the material related to the extracted data and the material employed while the continuous data is recorded.

4.   A user-data relating apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a synchronous output unit for synchronizing the continuous data with the user data to reproduce both the continuous data and the user data synchronized with the continuous data based upon the relating information acquired by the relating unit.

5.   A program for causing a computer to realize a user-data relating process operation for causing user data to be related to a predetermined position of continuous data, the user data being added by a user in relation to a material employed while the continuous data is recorded, the program comprising:

adding the user data by the user with respect to a material

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which has been distributed to the user in relation to the material actually used in the continuous data; and

causing the user data to be related to a position contained in the continuous data in which the material was employed based upon a corresponding relationship between the material to which the user data has been added and the material employed while the continuous data is recorded.

6.   A user-data relating method for causing user data to be related to a predetermined position of continuous data, the user data being added by a user in relation to a material employed while the continuous data is recorded, the method comprising:

accepting the user data added by the user with respect to a material which has been distributed to the user in relation to the material actually used in the continuous data; and

causing the user data to be related to a position contained in the continuous data in which the material was employed based upon a corresponding relationship between the material to which the user data has been added and the material employed while the continuous data is recorded.

7.   A user-data relating method for causing user data to be related to a predetermined position of continuous data, the user data being added by a user in relation to a material

employed while the continuous data is recorded, the method comprising:

extracting user data which was described by the user with respect to a material distributed to the user by reading an image
5 of a printed material; and

causing the user data to be related to the continuous data in which the material was employed based upon a corresponding relationship between the material in which the extracted user data has been described and the material employed while the
10 continuous data is recorded.